KATIVIK

PRESS RELEASE

The Kativik Regional Government seeks temporary assistance from the Sûreté du Québec

Kuujjuaq, Québec – September 29th 2006 – The Kativik Regional Government (KRG) and the Kativik Regional Police Force (KRPF) have noticed, due to recent events, that very few KRPF officers and Special Constables are duly nominated as required by the Police Act and the Kativik Act.

The process of appointment for some of the KRPF officers and special constables requires the approval of the minister of Public Security. The KRG has invested large amounts in the training of the special constables and as of today, there are approximately 30 officers and special constables that are duly qualified by having followed the Native Special Constables training at the National Police School in Nicolet. But they have not received the approval of the Minister yet.

The Public Security Ministry is collaborating with the KRG and the KRPF file is a priority file at the government level. Yet, despite the urgency of the situation there are still necessary technicalities that have to be followed in the nomination process at the Public Security Ministry level and this process will take some time.

As a consequence, the KRPF is not in a position right now to fulfill adequately its mandate to ensure the public safety and to render the proper services to the population.

The chairperson of the KRG, Mrs. Maggie Emudluk stated: "Our first priority right now is to ensure the safety and security of all residents in Nunavik and to get the nominations of KRPF officers done, so that they can make their way back into the police force as soon as possible. The Sureté du Québec officers will move out as the nominations are done."

On September 28th 2006, as a result from all of the above and until the situation is resolved, the KRG and the KRPF requested assistance form the Sûreté du Québec (Québec Provincial Police) for the delivery of police services in all 14 northern villages in Nunavik. Therefore today, approximately 40 SQ officers will be sent to the 14 communities in Nunavik. Planes have been chartered to ensure a rapid deployment of those officers. The KRPF Interim Chief Luc

Harvey, Deputy Chief Jobie Epoo and all KRPF officers will work closely with the SQ in the coming weeks.

The KRG and KRPF will make all the necessary efforts to re-establish the situation as soon as possible. As soon as KRPF officers are being duly nominated, the SQ will gradually withdraw its officers and things will slowly get back to normal.

At the end of the whole process, we feel we will have a stronger police force that will benefit and better serve all Nunavimmiut.

Kativik Regional Government (KRG) is a non-ethnic public organization created in 1978, under the James Bay and Northern Quebec Agreement, whose jurisdiction covers nearly the entire territory of Quebec north of the 55th parallel. KRG administers the affairs of Nunavik in the areas of municipal affairs, transportation, environment, police, employment, manpower training, income security, childcare services, renewable resources, land-use management, civil security and economic development.

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